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update

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Fortieth Session of Governing Council Ends in New York

The UNDP Governing Council completed its fortieth session on 18 June by adopting 37 decisions and paying final tribute to the outgoing Administrator.

It approved a revised budget of $609,564,700 for the biennium 1992-1993 and a budget of $628,421,100 for the 1994-1995 biennium.

The Council also approved 12 UNDP country programmes in Africa, nine in Asia and Pacific, two in Latin America and five among the Arab States. Fifteen country programmes in different regions were extended.

It granted recipient status to Eritrea and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

It requested the Administrator to proceed with the implementation of Capacity 21 and supported his intention to devote 40 per cent of the initiative's overall budget to the least developed countries.

The Council encouraged the Administrator to adopt a combined community-based and multisectoral approach to HIV/AIDS work at the country level.

It decided to continue discussions on the offer of Germany to host UNDP headquarters in Bonn at its 41st session (6-24 June 1994). Meanwhile, it invited those member states which have not expressed their views on the matter to do so.

Regarding the transfer of the Office for Project Services to the UN Secretariat, the Council accepted the outlined modalities for the transfer subject to a number of requirements. Principal among them: OPS must have maximum possible degree of autonomy, continue to work in close collaboration with UNDP, remain fully self-financing and retain and improve further its Rules of Procurement. The proposed transfer date of 1 January 1994 remains a target pending review by the UN General Assembly.

In other budgetary and finance matters, the Council requested the Administrator to continue streamlining procedures for project approval. The Council urged the Administrator to strictly adhere to the rules and procedures in hiring consultants.

Sustainable development mandate reinforced

Three Governing Council decisions will help accelerate UNDP initiatives to develop and maintain capacity building programmes for sustainable development. The Council approved 41 new field office posts for sustainable development national officers. It requested UNDP to make special efforts to address vulnerable ecosystems surrounding closed seas and oceans. It strongly endorsed the Administrator's post-UNCED strategy, in particular UNDP's decision to launch Capacity 21, and called on all countries to generously contribute to this programme.

The creation of the 41 posts will allow UNDP to tap into a pool of each country's most talented environment and natural resource management experts. UNDP will be recruiting professionals with a minimum of 15-20 years of environment-related experience and a thorough understanding of their countries' development priorities to reinforce the sustainability aspects of UNDP country programmes. These officers will also assist in developing Capacity 21 initiatives.

World Conference on Human Rights

"A greater level of social and economic development increases the possibilities for recognition of and respect for human rights," said Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Director of UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa, in her address to the World Conference on Human Rights.

The Conference, which brought together participants from 180 countries, was held from 14 to 25 June in Vienna, Austria. Its purpose was to review progress made in the field of human rights since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948 and forge a new global human rights agenda.

UNDP and the UN Centre for Human Rights presented a joint paper to the Conference underlining the links between development, democracy and the enjoyment of economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights. The paper reviewed experiences in technical cooperation, in response to government requests, regarding peace-making, reconstruction and democratization. Suggestions for future action included, among others, incorporation of human rights in the overall training provided international civil servants.

In this issue:

Projects approved: **Boosting China's agricultural productivity • Assistance to Colombia's indigenous peoples • Social programmes for Egypt • Promoting women's issues in the Republic of Korea • Improved rice cultivation for Sierra Leone • Modernizing customs operations in Venezuela • Strengthened financial management for the Pacific Islands • Examining the implications of HIV/AIDS in Asia and Pacific**

UNDP also gave a press briefing which drew attention to this year's *Human Development Report*. UNDP Resident Representatives and consultants led panel discussions organized for the "Development Day," one of the Conference's five thematic days featuring UNDP-supported reconstruction and peace building activities in Central America.

Poland Expands privatization

As part of its economic reform strategy and shift towards a decentralized market-based economy, Poland has adopted an ambitious programme to transfer state assets into private hands. Such privatization initiatives require substantial time and financial resources to restructure enterprises, prepare them for privatization, create the necessary financial institutions to support a vibrant business sector, and develop the business skills necessary to operate the enterprises in a market economy.

UNDP will soon launch an innovative $2.6 million programme to support the privatization efforts of the Government of Poland and various national institutions through provision of technical assistance to 40 state-owned enterprises scheduled to be privatized in Lublin, Chelm, Biala Podlaska, and Zamosc. In addition, advisory services and training will be offered to 25 enterprises already privatized to ensure their continuous growth and competitiveness. A public awareness campaign will build public support for the privatization transition and technical and capital assistance will be offered to promote foreign and national investment. This two-year prototype programme has been designed with the objective of attracting further donor support to similar privatization approaches elsewhere in Poland.

Latvia welcomes experts for business development and civil service reform

The Republic of Latvia is undergoing an accelerated process of political, social and economic change designed to create a market economy within a democratic system. The government has requested UNDP to provide consultants for civil service reform, private sector development and other areas essential to the transition process.

More than a dozen experts will be sent to Latvia under three different low-cost consultancy services offered by UNDP: Transfer of Know-how Through Expatriate Nationals (TOKTEN), The United Nations International Short-term Advisory Resources (UNISTAR), and UN Volunteers (UNV).

A large number of Latvians who live abroad have the skills in market economy disciplines that many areas of the country require. The TOKTEN programme provides a channel for bringing these experts back to Latvia for short-term consultancies.

The UNISTAR programme will help private sector firms gain access to technical and administrative skills in such fields as management, marketing, strategic planning, finance and design. UNISTAR provides the services of leading experts and managers who can help solve operational problems of private businesses. It recruits from a diverse international pool of experts who have extensive hands-on business experience.

UNV mobilizes the services of technically proficient volunteers of all ages to assist in the development process. Given the nature of the challenge facing Eastern and Central Europe, UNV has made a special concession that volunteers may take on assignments, where necessary, for less than the standard one-year duration.

In earthquake aftermath, new schools for Kyrgyzstan

Grants totalling more than $1 million from the Government of Norway and the UN Department for Humanitarian Affairs will enable reconstruction of two secondary schools destroyed in a 1992 earthquake in Kyrgyzstan. The schools will be located in the Tiktogul and Uchterek regions. Construction is scheduled for completion by the end of this year. UNDP's Office for Project Services (OPS) will administer the funds.

The Norwegian grant will be used for purchasing pre-fabricated building materials, equipment and furniture. OPS has already begun the competitive bidding for the supply and delivery of these construction materials, which will be of Norwegian manufacture and purchased from Norwegian companies.

The grant from the Department of Humanitarian Affairs will provide for transportation of the products from Norway to the construction sites in Kyrgyzstan. The funds will also be used for site preparation, including construction of the foundations and the installation of water and electrical supplies. The Government of Kyrgyzstan will complete construction of the two schools. An independent inspection team will be established through the grant.

Australia creates fund for clean coal technology

The UN Fund for Science and Technology will manage a $2 million trust fund established by the Australian government for the development and use of clean coal. More than 200 energy specialists from 23 Asian countries will receive training in environmentally-sound coal technologies. A broad range of state-of-the-art technologies will be presented through workshops. In addition, courses in management skills and energy policy will be offered.

Protecting the Red Sea

A $2.8 million Global Environment Facility (GEF) programme will help the Government of Yemen develop an effective national marine management plan for the Red Sea. Pollution control and protection of marine life along the 450-kilometre Red Sea coast of Yemen are essential if fish catches from these waters are to be sustainable. The

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GEF provides grants to developing countries for environmental protection efforts aimed at reducing global warming, cleaning up pollutants from international waters, conserving the planet's biodiversity and protecting the ozone layer. The GEF is managed by UNDP, the World Bank and the United Nations Environment Programme.

Fisheries are vital to Yemen's economy, and fish are the country's second most important source of protein. Yet the present lack of monitoring of the coast and the inadequate amount of marine data have enabled shipping companies to use these waters for polluting activities such as tank cleaning. Heavy metals, pesticides and fertilizer run-off also pose threats to the Red Sea coast.

Key activities of the GEF programme will include assessing and classifying marine habitats and offshore reefs. Training programmes will strengthen the capabilities of national institutions to detect and control pollution. While this programme will help Yemen develop sustainable use of marine resources, it will also serve as a model for planning and managing uses of adjacent waters.

Approved projects

(all projects subject to modification; sums quoted in US dollars)

China — This project aims to develop agricultural productivity in the arid and semi-arid areas of the northwestern region. It will focus on building the region's capacity in desert agriculture, dryland farming, fruit production and agricultural education. There will also be programme support for effective management, coordination and monitoring of various agricultural activities.

UNDP contribution: $9,044,000. Funds will finance international and national consultants, fellowships and study tours. Equipment for laboratory and field testing activities will be provided. Executed by the China International Centre for Economic and Technical Exchanges. Implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture. (CPR/91/110)

Colombia — During the preparatory phase of this project, UNDP provided technical assistance to improve the socio-economic conditions of indigenous communities. For the project to be fully operational, UNDP will help sharpen the management skills of indigenous community leaders through training in leadership, planning and administration. The organization will support the government in formulating policies, designing strategies and managerial methods. It will also support the communities in designing projects in the agricultural, environment and social areas.

UNDP contribution: $137,553. Government cost-sharing: $6,324,404. UNDP will provide regional consultants for national coordination, project formulation, environment, credit and food-for-work management. Consultants in the design of marketing stategies and management of communal micro-enterprises and legal assistance will also be provided. Executed by the Ministry of the Presidency through the National Rehabilitation Plan. Implemented by the National Rehabilitation Plan and local NGOs. (COL/92/007)

Egypt — The Social Fund for Development (SFD) was established in 1991 to lessen the negative effects of the Economic Reform and Structural Adjustment Programme the government has adopted. Within the SFD programme UNDP will establish an institutional structure to ensure the sustainability of SFD. It will also provide institutional support so that SFD sub-projects are identified and implemented according to their workplans.

UNDP contribution: $3.5 million. Government cost-sharing: $13 million. Funds will provide international consultants to advise and assist in finalizing SFD's institutional capacity building and programme development and implementation. It will also provide for national consultants to carry out studies and surveys. Administrative support, training, and equipment will also be given. Executed by the Board of Directors of the SFD and implemented by SFD Technical Secretariat and the Operational Unit for Development Assistance. (EGY/92/007)

Republic of Korea — The Government is taking advantage of UNDP's pro-active role on women in development in promoting awareness in gender equality. UNDP will help create a cooperation to promote women's issues. It will bring together governmental bodies, NGOs and women at grass roots level to formally meet. A participatory approach will be emphasized. The conclusion of the first phase of this project will be marked by holding the first annual National Conference on Women. Men and women from the private and public sectors, central and local authorities will recommend new policies and programmes of action.

UNDP contribution: $50,000. Funds will provide for the costs of national consultants. Executed by the Ministry of Political Affairs. Implemented by the Korean Women's Development Institute. (ROK/93/004)

Sierra Leone — As a follow-up to previous projects of UNDP, this project will assist the government and the people of Sierra Leone in rice cultivation in inland valley swamps (IVS). To increase production and achieve national self-sufficiency, UNDP will improve IVS land development technology. It will give assistance to farmers to promote increased production of rice and other food crops in IVS and adjacent uplands. It will improve skills of farmers and extension workers and promote rural credit schemes focusing on women members of Farmers' Associations.

UNDP contribution: $1,638,000. Funds will provide for consultants in swamp development engineering, oil palm agronomy, credit

and farmers association development. A rice agronomist, three UN volunteers and a Women in Development Officer will also be provided. Fellowships, group and in-service training and equipment will be given. Executed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN and implemented by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry. (SIL/89/008)

Venezuela — Aduanas de Venezuela Servicio Autonomo (AVSA) was created by the government to modernize customs operations in order to cope with global markets and trade liberalization. UNDP will ensure that AVSA is operational and that it fulfils its functions of controlling and generating revenue. The project will focus on information technology, organization, management control, legal structure and human resources, which are critical in customs operations.

Government cost-sharing: $5,101,200. Funds will provide for international consultants in customs operations and information technology, national personnel for project management and coordination, organization, legal framework, information technology and infrastructure and administrative support personnel. Subcontracts for hardware and software for information processing and telecommunications will be given. Executed and implemented by the Ministry of Finance. (VEN/93/005)

Regional Projects:

Economic and Financial Management and Reform — RAS/92/330 — The Economic and Financial Management and Reform (EFMAR) programme was created by the Pacific island country (PIC) governments to establish a regional repository of expertise. Island governments can retrieve policy advice for strengthening institutional capacity from EFMAR. Under the first phase, EFMAR will improve the capability of PIC governments in budget formulation, public expenditure control and accounting and cash management in the Ministries of Finance. It will formulate and implement tax measures and strengthen the tax administration practices. The monetary policies and procedures relating to bank supervision will be improved. The expertise of the Statistical and Monetary Authorities will be improved.

UNDP contribution: $1,633,000. International Monetary Fund (IMF) contribution: $1,335,000. UNDP will fund three experts, two support staff, short-term consultants, training and equipment. IMF funds will provide a project coordinator, consultants, regional training courses and provision for travel and technical missions. Executed by the IMF.

Strengthening Multisectoral and Community Responses to the HIV Epidemic in Asia and the Pacific — RAS/92/008 — This project was designed to raise awareness regarding the determinants, causes and implications of the HIV epidemic in Asia and the Pacific. Through workshops and seminars, the project will help increase the understanding of the social and economic consequences of the epidemic and develop responses. Under the project, networks will be created among experts on the development implications of the epidemic and successful NGO and community-based organization projects in the social and economic determinants of HIV will be identified, supported and documented. It will promote technical cooperation among governments, the private sector and NGOs, working in the field of HIV and development, and will help disseminate information on global and regional research.

UNDP contribution: $5,000,000. Funds will finance a chief technical adviser, an economist, a trainer, a community development expert and a communications support expert. International and national consultants, administrative and support staff will be provided. Executed by UNDP's Office for Project Services. Implemented by the Ministry of Planning of participating countries.

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Update on UNDP in Somalia

In the absence of a Somali government, UNDP-funded programmes continue to work closely with communities that are physically secure in order to initiate development efforts. The aim is to help communities generate revenue, provide employment, and stimulate their local economies.

UNDP assistance has helped to revitalize air traffic control at Mogadishu's international airport and is currently helping to build up the Mogadishu Port Authority.

One major subcontract with Save the Children, co-financed by USAID, has rehabilitated large-scale irrigation systems in the lower Shebelle region in the south, demonstrating that productivity can be restored to regions once dominated by conflict. Nearly 15,000 people were employed to repair 170 kilometres of canals.

With financial and material support from the US Government, UNDP continues to operate the Mogadishu water supply system. This programme has been vital in preventing large-scale epidemics caused by contaminated water from shallow wells. Water services are now functioning at the level they were before the crisis developed in Somalia.

Several projects operate in the northern region of the country where UNDP has allocated $1.25 million for school rehabilitation, bridge repair, irrigation repair, strengthening market facilities and training former militia in employable skills. These activities will be expanded to the central and southern regions when security allows.

UNDP remains on hand to ease the return and settlement of displaced populations. Its focus includes repairing damaged infrastructure, creating projects to stimulate local economies, and establishing local institutions to administer these efforts.

UNDP-supported network solves a toxic problem in Pakistan

An international electronic mail system played an instrumental role in disposing of a highly toxic material that was dumped last month into the Lyari River in Pakistan. The UNDP-supported information system, called The Sustainable Development Network (SDN), sent an alert, via electronic mail, when newspapers in Pakistan reported that 2.5 tonnes of a toxic substance had been tossed into the river in containers. The SDN is a "network of national networks" for sharing information for and about sustainable development.

The toxic material, which killed the two people who discovered the waste and inhaled its fumes, was identified as meta-dinitrobenzene, a potentially explosive chemical. The Pakistani governmental and non-governmental agencies involved in the cleanup operation had little idea about how to safely handle and dispose of the substance.

When SDN received this information, it sent out an appeal to various electronic information exchange networks such as EcoNet and PeaceNet. More than 50 individuals and organizations responded with concrete suggestions and offers of help. Responding countries included Brazil, Finland, Germany, New Zealand, Switzerland, the US and the UK. Within the US, the organizations which answered included the Environmental Protection Agency, the American Lung Association, and the National Institute of Environmental Health and Sciences.

Students and Pakistani expatriates also reacted, many by searching commercial databases to retrieve useful information. Other individuals sent comprehensive fact sheets covering such topics as how to handle the substance, what its known effects are on human beings, and possible ways of disposing of it. The final outcome: the toxic material was safely incinerated under expert supervision. The information is still trickling in and is extensive enough to compile a small book on the subject.

Accelerating the transition process in the former Soviet countries

Privatization and private sector development are proceeding at an uneven pace in the countries of the former Soviet Union. The privatization process develops more quickly in Central and Eastern Europe, offering valuable experience for the countries of the former Soviet Union.

The Central and Eastern European Privatization Network (CEEPN) — which was set up in 1991 with the support of UNDP as an association of privatization experts — has proven the validity and usefulness of exchanges of experience and networking throughout the region. Several CIS and Baltic countries have already become members of CEEPN, reflecting the need for an expanded dialogue beyond the country level.

In this issue:

Projects approved: **An environmental management plan for Cameroon • Bolstering Kyrgyzstan's economic base • Strengthening the industrial property system of Malaysia • Biodiversity conservation in Nepal • Private sector development in Zambia**

To help extend this dialogue, an International Symposium on Decentralized Privatization and Private Sector Development was held from 1-3 July in Kiev, Ukraine. The meeting attracted 115 participants from nine countries of the former Soviet Union, three Baltic States, six countries from Central and Eastern Europe, and many representatives of western countries, international NGOs and private companies. It was the first international meeting of this kind.

Participants reviewed case studies based on practical examples of privatization and initiatives in private sector development in municipalities in Central European, CIS and Baltic countries. "There are no universal models of privatization and small business development to follow, but countries can learn from success stories in neighbouring countries," said Stephen Browne, the United Nations Representative in Kiev. "Business cards were very much in evidence at the Symposium. Participants made numerous new contacts which they intend to pursue."

One concrete result of the meeting will be the extension of the activities of CEEPN. The Symposium was organized by UNDP's Division for Europe and the CIS from its offices in Vienna, Kiev and New York.

Safeguarding Mongolia's endangered species

Pre-investment studies will be conducted to pave the way for a Global Environment Facility project, estimated to cost $1.5 million, which will help Mongolia conserve biodiversity. The country harbors numerous endangered species. The best known of these include the snow leopard, the wild camel, the Argali sheep, the Gobi bear, and the Takhi, an extremely rare wild horse.

The studies will define and establish geographic areas and project activities to conserve habitat and to protect species that are either rare or threatened. OPS is recruiting international consultants to carry out these studies. The consultants will draft a biodiversity action plan, will review environmental legislation and will address arrangements for training and research in biodiversity.

Mongolia has reached a political and economic turning point as it shifts from a socialist to a democratic form of government, and from a centrally-planned to a free-market economic system. Initiatives taken now to protect the environment and natural resources will have a profound influence on the country's future resource base and environmental condition. Integrating conservation activities with the needs and aspirations of local communities is a primary concern for Mongolia and this GEF project.

Mozambique begins rebuilding

UNDP has begun to prepare for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of Mozambique. Initially reaching four districts and ultimately extending to 20 districts, the programme will promote the economic productivity of displaced persons, returnees and demobilized soldiers in Mozambique.

Until a peace agreement was signed last October, military conflicts forced a third of the country's population to resettle under precarious conditions, seek refuge in neighbouring countries or scatter into rural areas. These massive population shifts caused a serious decline in living standards, abandonment of productive farms, and the reduction of social services. UNDP will help formulate a series of small-scale, district level projects to foster rural development and agricultural rehabilitation.

As part of another effort to improve conditions in Mozambique's provinces, UNDP's Office for Project Services will recruit experts for a full-scale project to strengthen the country's capacity to manage relief operations. The project will improve accountability for the delivery and distribution of food aid and relief items, and ensure adequate reporting both to the government and to the donor community.

Technical and managerial support will be provided to the National Executive Commission for the Emergency (CENE). This support will assist CENE in implementing its operations during Mozambique's transition from emergency programmes to long-term rehabilitation and reconstruction.

Guyana donates section of its rain forest for international study

The Government of Guyana recently set aside more than 360,000 hectares of Amazon rain forest to develop and demonstrate methods of sustainable management and conservation of tropical forests. The Global Environment Facility (GEF) has approved $3,000,000 toward the three-year programme. GEF is an international initiative that uses donor funds to help developing countries protect the global environment. It is jointly managed by UNDP, the World Bank and the UN Environment Programme.

The Government of Guyana asked UNDP's Office for Project Services to recruit the programme coordinator and other international consultants to get activities underway. OPS will also recruit contractors to design and install a geographic information system, complete with results of topographic mapping and resource surveys to be carried out as part of the project.

The Iwokrama Rainforest Programme envisages an Amazon Rain forest wilderness preserve and an area for demonstrating how rain forests can yield ecologically-sound economic benefits. The environmental venture also calls for an international centre for research and

training for the sustainable management of tropical rain forests. This centre will enable international scientists and scholars to conduct forestry research. In addition, an international environment communications centre to promote environmental literacy will be created.

Another important project goal concerns the preservation of the Amerindian heritage. This aspect of the project will build on native knowledge of the botanical wealth of the site and the ecological wisdom and conservation practices of the Amerindians. A strategy will be devised for protecting the intellectual property rights to medicinal and other uses of the Iwokrama rain forest resources.

New work plan for protecting the ozone layer

China, India, the Philippines and Venezuela are among the countries which will receive UNDP technical and managerial assistance in 1993 for phasing out their use of ozone-depleting substances. Funding for this group of projects, which will be executed by UNDP's Office for Project Services, will come from funds provided through the Montreal Protocol. China, India and the Philippines will receive assistance for project preparation and strengthening country programmes. Venezuela will benefit from workshops, and a pilot programme for recycling chlorofluorocarbons in refrigeration.

Ozone depletion results from emissions of chlorofluorocarbons, halons and other chemicals into the atmosphere. It increases the amount of harmful ultraviolet radiation reaching the earth. Ratified in 1990, the Montreal Protocol calls for industrialized countries to phase-out ozone-depleting substances by the year 2000, and developing countries to do so by the year 2010. A Multilateral Fund assists qualified developing countries in meeting the costs of complying with the phaseout provision of the Protocol.

UNDP's first Montreal Protocol work programme in 1991 was comprised mainly of country specific projects such as needs assessments and collection of data on ozone-depleting substances. Its 1992 programme was quite different, concentrating on the technical assistance aspect of formulating country programmes, providing technical training and demonstrating new technologies.

Approved projects

(all projects subject to modification; sums quoted in US dollars)

Cameroon — Environmental protection activities have been undertaken on an ad hoc basis in the country. There is an urgent need for a stronger, more coordinated programme for dealing with environmental issues. UNDP will assist the government in formulating a long-term environment strategy and management plan. Seminars and orientation courses will be carried out at national and provincial levels to improve the technical and administrative services related to environmental management.

UNDP contribution: $971,000. Funds will be used for training, equipment, an international specialist, and consultants for organizing orientation courses and formulating the national plan. Government executed and implemented by the Ministry of Environment and Forests. (CMR/92/008).

Kyrgyzstan — Kyrgyzstan urgently needs to establish investment, production and trading systems that will restore its economic base. UNDP agreed to play a leading role with the government in formulating a programme of training in public sector management. Through various training programmes, the project will help build and strengthen institutional capability in macroeconomic management, public administration and business management.

UNDP contribution: $1,500,000. The Netherlands Government contribution: $2,000,000. Funds will finance consultants in macroeconomic and enterprise management training, and five UN Volunteers for English language training. Study tours and seminars for national trainees will be provided along with computer and communications equipment. Executed and implemented by UNDP's Office for Project Services. (KYR/93/001 - KYR/93/501)

Malaysia — To establish new procedures and expedite the processing of applications for patents and trademarks, UNDP will provide advisory services to the Intellectual Property Division (IPD) of the Ministry of Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs. It will strengthen and develop IPD through training, introduce computerized systems, and develop a database of patents and trademarks. Patent information and documentation services will be established.

UNDP contribution: $549,374. Funds will finance an expert in patent classification, examination, administration and legislation. Consultants will be provided in industrial design legislation, intellectual property procedures, computerization, and patent information and documentation. Ten fellowships for training abroad will be awarded. Executed by the World Intellectual Property Organization. Implemented by the Ministry of Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs. (MAL/92/010)

Nepal — The Government created the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC) to protect its biodiversity. UNDP will help the country formulate a national biodiversity action plan. Training and equipment will be offered to enhance the national capacity for biodiversity protection and management.

GEF contribution: $3,800,000. Funds will provide a national professional to closely monitor the project, as well as training and equipment for research and field work. Government executed and implemented by the DNPWC. (NEP/92/G31)

Zambia — UNDP will provide technical assistance to help Zambia create an environment conducive to private investment and business development. A Capital Market Authority will be established to improve the country's financial sector. Business organizations will be strengthened to promote the growth and development of small and medium-sized enterprises. Management skills within the Zambia Privatization Agency will be enhanced. In addition, the legal drafting capabilities within the Ministry of Legal Affairs will be improved to ensure consistent legislation governing the private sector.

UNDP contribution: $5,109,102. Funds will be used for office equipment, a team of legal, economic and accounting experts, and a national coordinator for a business development programme. Government executed and implemented by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

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Renewed aid flows for Viet Nam

The climate for expanding external assistance to Viet Nam has improved, following a recent decision by the International Monetary Fund to re-open credit to the country, subject to repayment of past dues. Accordingly, the Government of Viet Nam has invited UNDP and the World Bank to co-chair the first international donor conference on Viet Nam. This meeting will be held in mid-November at the World Bank conference centre in its European office in Paris.

In view of its long-term role in multi-lateral cooperation with Viet Nam, UNDP is assisting the government in outlining its development strategy and priority areas for external assistance.

The donor conference will provide an opportunity for the government to present its vision for the future socio-economic development of Viet Nam, its development strategy to achieve that vision, and the external capital and technical assistance required to implement that plan.

The donor community will have an opportunity to discuss Viet Nam's strategy, and other issues concerning the financing and implementation of development assistance. It is hoped that the international donors will be in a position to indicate the level of external assistance that they expect to provide during the next few years.

Improved coordination of external assistance will be an important objective of the conference. This will be essential to ensure that resources are directed to priority areas and that such funds are efficiently used.

Increased relief aid for Liberia

The World Food Programme, the United Kingdom's Overseas Development Administration, and the United States Agency for International Development have jointly contributed more than $820,000 to extend an existing $5.4 million UN emergency programme for Liberia. UNDP has been helping to coordinate the donor response to this on-going relief programme.

This extension was necessary because the emergency assistance needs for Liberia have increased significantly since last year. Renewed hostilities and rising refugee populations have further disrupted normal economic activities. Nearly 200,000 people residing between Monrovia and Buchanan need shelter, food, water, sanitation and medical services.

The UN emergency and humanitarian relief operations for the remainder of 1993 will include managing centres for displaced populations. UN work will be carried out in close collaboration with the National Resettlement and Repatriation Commission of the Liberian Interim Government of National Unity.

Managing Latvia's foreign aid and bolstering its public administration

UNDP has undertaken a project aimed at resolving two of the major difficulties that Latvia faces in moving from a centrally-planned system to a democratic market-oriented one. The first problem is the need to establish an appropriate public administration with the capacity to operate in a market economy. The second problem is the need to strengthen the government's ability to effectively manage foreign assistance provided by the donor community during the transition period.

UNDP's first step in this preparatory project will be to conduct a workshop designed to ensure that government offices, trade unions, professional groups and academic institutions have a better under-

In this issue:

Projects approved: Labour redeployment in Argentina • Protecting Cuba's biodiversity • Honduras strengthens medical services • Enhancing links between NGOs and the government in Mexico • Ensuring social security protection in the Philippines • A long-term development plan for Swaziland • HIV/AIDS awareness in Uganda • Development planning for Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union • International workshops for social development

standing of what to expect from the central government in a democratic society. The workshop will help establish a logical and professional division of labour, and outline how the decision-making process should work.

In addition, UNDP will help strengthen the process for effective use of foreign assistance. Already, a Foreign Assistance Coordination Unit has been set up in the Ministry of Finance. UNDP will enhance the unit's relationship with the donor community by providing recommendations on policy issues, technical matters and organizational arrangements.

Latvia's Ministry of Finance will implement the whole effort, which will include devising a strategy for restructuring the public administration, and establishing a plan for incentives to ensure that the core functions of government both attract and keep qualified personnel.

Strengthening management of Eritrea's public sector

The Government of Eritrea is developing an ambitious programme to improve public sector management of the country's economic policies. The UNDP-supported programme will help restructure key government departments and public enterprises, will develop a comprehensive human resource management strategy, and will introduce a computerized management information system.

Protracted war and the ravages of two decades of recurrent drought have devastated the national economy. Economic, financial, administrative and social institutions which previously operated on a large-scale were reduced to the status of mere provincial branches. Furthermore, the administrative, record-keeping and accounting systems of the government are now manual and inadequate to keep pace with the information needs of an emerging programme of rehabilitation and economic development. The goal of Eritrea's public sector management programme will be to improve the environment for economic growth, through the efficient use of human, capital and other resources. Training programmes will be designed and tailored to meet the country's managerial needs, including a training programme for the use of computers to facilitate accounting and record-keeping.

In addition, a system of managerial accounting for public enterprises, projects and programmes, personnel management and payroll will be created. To ensure a competent and productive civil service, a strategy for attracting, motivating and rewarding outstanding public sector employees will be designed.

Emergency assistance to heavy snowfall areas in Mongolia

UNDP has agreed to provide funds for emergency fuel that was supplied to Mongolia during an extremely heavy mid-winter snowstorm. A public enterprise, the Petroleum Import Company, released more than 150 tonnes of fuel to Mongolia's Ministry of Road, Transport and Communications in mid-April. The need was so urgent that the fuel had to be supplied before funding could be found.

More than 1,000 people in 150 sq. kilometres in the Western provinces of Bayankhongor, Zavkhan and Gobi-Altai suffered hardship from snow accumulations of up to 160 centimetres. Thick ice closed many roads, leaving some of the remotest areas nearly inaccessible.

The highest relief priority was given to the provision of staple foods, and fuel for facilitating delivery. Austria, China, Denmark, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Japan, Viet Nam, the United States, and the United Kingdom offered food and relief goods. Various United Nations agencies supplied clothes, food, and emergency spare parts for ambulances.

Approved projects

(all projects subject to modification; sums quoted in US dollars)

Argentina—The government initiated a far-reaching adjustment programme to balance the budget, privatize the economy and slim the public sector. The reform process has brought favourable results, but income distribution remains skewed, and formal employment is still inaccessible to many.

UNDP will design and implement a pilot programme in Buenos Aires to help meet the demand for qualified labour, and reduce unemployment. Through this programme, 100 courses in a wide range of areas will be offered to 2,000 participants. Firms specializing in labour training will be identified and evaluated. A campaign will be launched to promote support for job training for former public-sector employees. The long-term goal will be to demonstrate that Argentina has the institutional capacity to implement a larger, more complex nationwide labour programme.

UNDP contribution: $6,325,500. Funds will finance training and national experts. Government executed and implemented by the Ministry of Economy and Public Works and Services. (ARG/93/024)

Cuba—This project will protect the biodiversity of the Sabana-Camaguey Ecosystem, an area threatened by rapid economic development and tourism. Objectives will include strengthening the scientific and environmental planning and management capabilities of Cuban

agencies. A data base will be established to improve planning, management and sustainable development of the area. Technical assistance will be provided to key centres which carry out research and monitoring of coastal and marine ecosystems.

Global Environment Facility contribution: $2 million. Funds will provide training, equipment and consultants in environmental planning, marine planning, tourism planning, and biodiversity information systems. Executed and implemented by the Cuban Academy of Sciences. (CUB/92/G31)

Honduras—UNDP will help promote human development by working to reduce malnourishment, mortality and morbidity. A long-term nutrition policy will be devised. In addition, the capacity to use new maternal and infant medical equipment in 14 hospitals and 157 health centres will be strengthened. Support will be given to the expansion of health services. A training programme and policies will be established for medical waste disposal. Monitoring, evaluation and audit capabilities will be enhanced in the Ministry of Health. A computerized system of social indicators will be set up to enhance the country's ability to plan, coordinate and budget social programmes.

UNDP contribution: $220,000. Government cost-sharing: $6,541,283. Funds will finance national and international experts, training, and equipment. Executed by the Ministry of Public Health. Implemented by the Division of Planning of the Ministry of Health. (HON/93/006)

Mexico—Relations between NGO and government authorities in Mexico have long been a source of friction. A workshop was held last year to improve the dialogue between these two sectors. This UNDP-supported project is a result of the consensus reached at the workshop. Training will be provided to help strengthen NGOs and improve the dialogue between NGOs, governmental institutions and multilateral organizations. Resources will be mobilized to finance NGO projects.

UNDP contribution: $400,000. Government cost-sharing: $500,000. Funds will be used for equipment and consultancies. Government executed. Implemented by the Directorate General for Technical and Scientific Cooperation in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. (MEX/93/027)

Philippines—To improve social security protection of government employees, UNDP will assist the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) in restructuring its benefits plan. It will establish a more adequate, objective and uniform social security system and extend the coverage for non-permanent government employees. It will study the transferability of benefits between the GSIS and the Social Security System of the private sector. Procedures for data collection, record maintenance, claim processing and payment of benefits will be revised.

UNDP contribution: $435,100. Funds will finance training, and international experts in social security planning and administration. Government executed and implemented by GSIS and the National Economic Development Authority. (PHI/92/008)

Swaziland—UNDP will help the country devise long-term development objectives, strategies and policies. At the end of the programme, Swaziland will have a 25-year national development strategy covering economic, social, cultural, political and environmental aspects of development. Systems will be created for formulating long-term economic policies, and for mobilizing and allocating domestic and external resources. A solid data base on development statistics and issues will be established.

UNDP contribution: $799,000. Third Party cost-sharing: $500,000. Funds will be used for consultants in macroeconomics, development planning, agriculture planning, industrial policy, industrial economy, trade, management information services, and a UN volunteer in external assistance management. Executed and implemented by the Ministry of Economic Planning and Development. (SWA/93/002)

Uganda—Much has been done by the Government of Uganda, NGOs, UN agencies and bilateral donors to increase awareness of HIV transmission. However, as the awareness of HIV/AIDS is still low in some areas, UNDP will help identify regions which need stronger awareness campaigns.

In addition, the special vulnerability of women to HIV infection will be addressed on a priority basis. Gender issues have received little attention in the programmes of other donors.

UNDP will also help build the country's capacity to conduct more detailed assessments and studies of the economic and social impact of the AIDS epidemic. Such studies are a prerequisite for policy development.

Most of the care of the infected and affected take place in communities. One of the major challenges facing policy-makers is ensuring that resources reach households, where the needs are greatest. UNDP will help strengthen community-based organizations which deliver HIV/AIDS-related services.

UNDP contribution: $15,500,000. Funds for this extensive programme will be used for work in the areas of HIV transmission, examining economic and social impact, strengthening community services, and programme management. Executed and implemented by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning.

Regional projects

RER/93/012—NaTCAPs for Europe and the CIS— National Technical Cooperation Assessments and Programmes (NaTCAPs) were initiated in 1986 to assist developing countries in the systematic assessment of their technical cooperation. After a pilot phase from 1986-89, there are now over 40 NaTCAP exercises in Africa, Latin America and Asia.

For Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, the exercises will be of considerable value in identifying and formulating the new needs generated by these countries' transition to market-based economies. NaTCAPs will be initiated in Albania, Estonia, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, and Uzbekistan.

UNDP contribution: $1,000,000. Funds will be used for seminars, workshops and logistical support. Executed by UNDP's Office for Project Services. Implemented by relevant institutions in each country.

Interregional Projects:

INT/93/679—Social Development in the 1990s— UNDP will improve the usefulness and relevance of agreements to be proposed at the World Social Summit in March 1995 through three workshops for national delegates to the Social Summit, representatives of NGOs and the media. The first workshop will cover issues such as drugs, refugees, humanitarian assistance and the social impact of HIV/AIDS. The second workshop will address ethnic diversity, examining state policies in countries which have been relatively successful in managing relations among different ethnic groups. The third workshop will focus on economic restructuring. The goal is to use the workshop reports as a basis for formulating effective policies and strategies for social development.

UNDP contribution: $1,150,000. Funds will provide programme coordinators and consultants. In addition, three workshops and two conferences will be organized. Executed by the UN Department of Economic and Social Development. Implemented by the UN Research Institute for Social Development.

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